

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, IT, PO

SUBJECT: PSI DELIGHTED, PCI CIRCUMSPECT OVER SOARES CALL
FOR MEETING OF LATIN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST AND
COMMUNIST PARTIES

REF: ROME 12042

1. THE PSI HAS HAILED SOARES' APPEAL FOR A JOINT MEETING
BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES OF PORTUGAL,
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FRANCE, SPAIN, AND ITALY TO DISCUSS THE "PROBLEMS OF PASSAGE

TO SOCIALISM". SOCIALIST PARTY ORGAN AVANTI PROMPTLY FRONT-PAGED A SUMMARY OF SOARES' INTERVIEW WITH FRANCE-PRESSE, INCLUDING SOARES' HARSH CRITICISM OF THE PCP, AND HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM "OF THE NINE (OFFICERS)" OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES.

2. PARTY SECRETARY DEMARTINO, HARD PRESSED BY CHARGES OF ABANDONING SOARES IN THE INTERESTS OF "NEO-FRONTISM", WELCOMED SOARES' APPEAL AS A CRUSHING BLOW TO ALL THE DOMESTIC CRITICISM DIRECTED AGAINST THE PSI OVER THE DEMARTINO-BERLINGUER JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL. SOCIALIST SPOKESMEN ALSO HAIL, WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, PCI "SUPPORT", FOR SOARES' INITIATIVE.

3. UNITA, ORIGINALLY MERELY NOTED SOARES' APPEAL, INDIRECTLY CRITICIZING HIM FOR REPEATING HIS "KNOWN" CHARGES AGAINST THE PCP, AND EMPHASIZING HIS FAILURE TO INCLUDE CRITICISM OF HIMSELF. THE FOLLOWING DAY, AUGUST 3, IT PUBLISHED THE PCI'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL: "...AS IS KNOWN THE PCI IS IN FAVOR OF AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST FORCES, NOT ONLY IN ITALY, BUT ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL. ALL PROPOSALS MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION ARE VIEWED WITH FAVOR. NATURALLY, THESE INITIATIVES MUST BE AGREED TO TOGETHER AND ADEQUATELY PREPARED, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REALIZE THEM, AND HAVE THEM YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS." UNITA QUOTES DEMARTINO'S REPLY TO HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS, WITHOUT COMMENT, BENEATH THE PCI'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT. (IN A FURTHER NOTE, AUGUST 24, UNITA DENIES THAT IT IS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SOARES PROPOSAL, INDEED, FOR THE FIRST TIME SAYS THAT IT IS, BUT EXPLAINS ITS "RESERVE" BY ELABORATING ON THE LAST FEW LINES OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.)

4. COMMENT: AVANTI'S COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE PCI'S EQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR SOARES' INITIATIVE IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DESPERATE SOCIALIST ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT LEADS THE LEFT, BY AVOIDING ANY OPEN DIFFERENCES WITH THE PCI. WE SEE THE CPI'S CIRCUMSPECT REPLY AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF ITS INTENT TO PLAY ALONG, WHILE AVOIDING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE POLEMICS WITH THE CPSU ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND PORTUGAL. WE NOTE, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THE PCI'S POSITION ON THE SOARES PROPOSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEMS TO BE AS COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF PCF LEADER MARCHAIS', AS REPORTED IN AVANTI, AS WITH DEMARTINO'S. VOLPE

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